**MCI authorised Medical Colleges**

1919. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical colleges in the country which have been recognised by the Medical Council of India presently;

(b) the number of seats in all the colleges combined;

(c) whether there are plans to expand medical education in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government would give any fund for colleges which can be set up in backward areas; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Out of total 229 medical colleges functioning in the country, 166 medical colleges are recognized.

(b) Total 25592 seats are available in all the medical colleges.

(c) Central Government has no such plan. However, the Medical Council of India with the approval of Government of India, has brought out a scheme in the form of Regulations for opening of new medical college, increase in seats in existing courses and starting of new or higher course of study. Any person eligible under the Regulations and fulfilling the requirements laid thereunder may apply under this scheme for obtaining permission of the Central Government. Similar scheme also exists in respect of dental education.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no scheme under which funds could be provided for setting up new medical college.

**Presence of Argemone Maxicina in Edible Oils**

†1920. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the presence of Argemone Maxicina in edible oils has been confirmed in some regions of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of regions affected by it;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of deaths occurred in the nearby regions of Lucknow and Delhi, due to the outbreak of dropsy resulting from adulteration of edible oils and the action taken by Government to check this disease; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to check adulteration of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There have been reports of presence of Argemone Mexicana in edible oils from the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The regions affected are district Lucknow, in Lucknow region, District Kanpur in Kanpur region, District Gonea in Devi Pattan region, District Gorakhpur in Gorakhpur region, District Firozabad in Agra region, District Bareilly in Bareilly region.

(c) Three deaths have occurred in Lucknow city due to outbreak of dropsy resulting from adulteration of edible oils with Argemone Mexicana.

The State Government has intimated that strict surveillance has been initiated and strict measures have been adopted to control the situation. A task force of specialists has been constituted to treat the patients effectively.

(d) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, the standards of mustard oil already provides that it shall be free from argemone oil. The State/UTs Governments have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of mustard oil and to take action as per PFA Rules, 1955, and to alert the public regarding the dangers of consuming adulterated mustard oil.

**Adulteration of foodstuffs**

1921. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 90 per cent of the foodstuffs sold in the unorganised sector is adulterated with dangerous ingredients and even the branded stuff do not necessarily conform to the standards; and